
Title: Transmutatio Diabolicus

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Demonic

Investments

Who will not judge
him worthy to be
robbed

Thats sets his
doors wide open to a
thief,

And shows the
felon where the
treasure lies?

Annatar

Some Fallen magi
shy away from the
Abyss; demons are
"merely" their
servants and mentors
in the Arts. Many,
however, sell off
whole portions of
their souls. Mortal
cultists often do the
same, desperate for
any kind of power that
might lift them from
their misery. For a
awhile, these folk get
what they want. Too
hungry for power to
worry about its
eventual price, they
barter their lives and
souls for demonic
Investments -
inhuman talents that
channel the essence of
Hell.

Investiture
requires a formal pact:

A witch who wants
inhuman powers or
diabolical influence
petitions her patron
for an audience, then
requests a pact.

Once the Foedus
has been struck, the
demon works its
magic; depending on
the Investment, an
Infernalist could find
a pot of gold, sprout
bony wings, or have
her mind blasted into
instant awareness. At
that time, a strange
Devil's Mark appears
somewhere on the
Infernalist's person;
such "brands of
favor" depend on the
demon's sense of
humor and aesthetics:
a succubus could make
her servant
diabolically handsome,
while a swirling cloud
of chaos marks its
chosen with a mangled
limb. Either way, a
Devil's Mark displays
ownership, forging a
physical and
metaphysical bond
between demon and
diabolist. A
Supplicium seals the
pact and drives the
diabolist a little bit
closer to Hell.

As its name
implies, an
Investment displays
an odd sort of trust;
the demon gives its
servant a token of
esteem in return for
deeds it cannot
perform alone. If an
Infernalist is foolish
enough to make a pact
then break it, her
Investments disappear
immediately and the
chase begins.

Demonic
Investments are not

super-powers, nor
are they employed
easily. Most require
an invocation to the
Patronus and some
physical effort.
When a Fallen One
uses an Investment,
her aura turns dark
red, then black;
anyone with mystic
senses can tell that
dark forces are at
work in his vicinity.
Even mortals feel
deep chills. Most
Investments actually
transform the
Infernalist, too; a
diabolist with Wings
actually sprouts
skeletal bat-wings
from her back! When
a Fallen One calls
upon her Hell-born
powers, she becomes a
minor demon, and
usually looks the part!